

**LEGISLATIVE SERVICES AGENCY
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FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

LS 6455

BILL NUMBER: HB 1051

NOTE PREPARED: Feb 4, 2011

BILL AMENDED:

SUBJECT: Versailles Lake Task Force.

FIRST AUTHOR: Rep. Frye R

FIRST SPONSOR:

BILL STATUS: As Introduced

FUNDS AFFECTED: X GENERAL
DEDICATED
FEDERAL

IMPACT: State & Local

Summary of Legislation: This bill establishes the Versailles Lake Task Force to examine topics concerning Versailles Lake and the public water supply of surrounding communities. The bill requires the task force to issue a final report before September 1, 2012.

Effective Date: July 1, 2011.

Explanation of State Expenditures: (Revised) *Department of Natural Resources (DNR)*. The task force consists of 11 members, 2 of whom are state employees. Mileage, travel allowances, and other related expenses (except for per diem) can be paid to state employees and must be paid from appropriations made to DNR.

The DNR must staff the task force. The bill provides that the DNR **may** contract with a facilitator to facilitate the work of the task force. The DNR will likely be able to use its own staff to facilitate meetings. However, if the DNR finds that the responsibilities of the facilitator require a time commitment that is beyond the current staff's capacity, the DNR **may** hire a facilitator. Costs for a facilitator are estimated at between \$25,000 and \$50,000 per year. If a facilitator was needed, these costs would also be paid from appropriations to the DNR.

Legislative Services Agency (LSA). Legislators are entitled to receive the same per diem, mileage, and travel allowances paid to legislative members of interim study committees established by the Legislative Council. Per diem and expenses paid to legislators must be paid from appropriations made to the Legislative Council or the Legislative Services Agency. If the task force met four times per year, annual reimbursement and per diem for legislators are estimated at less than \$2,000.

Background. The task force is to meet at the call of the chair. The bill requires the task force to conduct public meetings and develop recommendations, propose solutions, and present a final report to the Water Resources Study Committee before September 1, 2012. The task force must make its report available to the members of the House Natural Resources standing committee, the Senate Natural Resources standing committee, and the public. The task force expires December 31, 2012. State agencies must cooperate and provide information to the task force as requested by the chair.

Explanation of State Revenues:

Explanation of Local Expenditures: Local agencies and governmental units must cooperate and provide information to the task force as requested by the chair. Local units might also reimburse members for traveling expenses and other expenses incurred. The overall expense is not expected to be significant.

Explanation of Local Revenues:

State Agencies Affected: DNR, Legislative Council, Legislative Services Agency.

Local Agencies Affected: Ripley County, Versailles Town Council, Ripley County tourism bureau, a soil and water conservation district located in the South Laughery Creek Watershed, a water utility that uses water from Versailles Lake.

Information Sources:

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